



Hoosick Street Phase II Corridor Plan

May 5, 2003

Community Workshop

~ Notes ~

WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT LIVING/WORKING IN THE HOOSICK STREET CORRIDOR? WHAT IS WORKING, AND SHOULD BE PROTECTED OR ENHANCED?

Group 1

- View downhill (toward Hudson River and City of Albany)
- Nearby blocks – great architecture
- Neighborhoods close to commercial
- A lot of green
- Great access to Northway, elsewhere
- Untapped potential for tourism
- Traffic light timing improved
- Multiple routes to get place to place
- Afternoon sunlight
- Well-maintained road – clean, few potholes
- The River – foghorns, breeze, character
- The Gateway to the City – main road to county and beyond
- Rich history – industries, houses and some are still there
- Accommodates a lot of traffic

Group 2

- Vista across the Valley
- Uncaptured tourist dollars
- Existing Historic structures
 - Clever Fellows
 - Oakwood Park Church
 - Kate Mullaney House
- Authenticity
- Open space above Burdett Avenue (undeveloped component of residential neighborhood)
- Neighborhoods along side corridor – large component of City's tax base.
 - Stable – but in transition to Very Stable
- Quick access to Capital District
- High density, energy efficient neighborhood compared to suburbs.

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Group 3

- Convenience
 - Businesses, stores, etc.
 - Everything is nearby
- Access to highway
 - Roadways leading elsewhere
- Employment opportunities nearby
- Hospital and healthcare facilities are close
- Public transportation access
- Pocket neighborhoods
- Mixed demographic: young & old
- Diversity – ethnic mix
- Churches, religious institutions
- Restaurants
- Recreation
 - Parks
 - YMCA
- Troy Plaza (before Price Chopper left)
- Access to River
- Gateway to Vermont
 - People traveling through
- Easy to find Hoosick Street and give directions – a reference point
- RPI-owned open space & residential area east of Burdett Avenue
- Schools – all levels

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WHAT PROBLEMS / CONCERNS SHOULD BE ADDRESSED THROUGH THE PLAN? WHAT CAN BE DONE TO IMPROVE LIFE IN THE HOOSICK STREET CORRIDOR?

Group 1

- Crossing Hoosick on foot
 - Safety and convenience
- Entering Hoosick Street in a car – where there is no light
- Very noisy – trucks coming downhill
- Pollution/dirt
 - Cannot open windows
 - Exhaust
 - Vibration
- Hoosick Street suffers from things outside its control
 - Brunswick, Bypass
 - Is there a way to take advantage?
- Used to be nice residential street. Future is not residential
- Auto safety – accidents
 - Highway – Road – Pool transition
- Speed
- Below Troy Plaza – confusing traffic pattern
- The roadway acts as a barrier – divides neighborhoods
- Ugly commercial development
 - Strip Mall style. Also empty commercial – in Sycaway as well
- Bottleneck at Lake
- Pedestrian access to Troy Plaza – especially from south side 8th, 9th, etc.
 - No snow removal
- Sidewalk maintenance – snow, debris
- A lot of people do walk still – with improvements, more would. Still have noise, exhaust.
- Untapped economic potential
- Corridor has never been defined – has developed randomly since bridge
- Needs turning lanes, bus stops, sidewalks away from road (widen roads??)
- Weekday bus service is good, but Weekend & Evenings service is not that good.
- No bus turnouts
- Slopes, old sewers, chopped up land ownership challenges
- Poor gateway to the City (great architecture in Troy that is not recognized or seen by through traffic)
- Bridge – changed traffic patterns throughout the greater region
- Property values lower
- Troy Taxes

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Group 2

- Urban neighborhoods being systematically abandoned
- Trucks – “jake” braking
- Dust and traffic accidents
- Noise
- Traffic congestion at intersections – 15th street
- Signalization along entire corridor
 - Also, 21st – 24th folks cannot proceed uphill
- Development pressure Wolf Road type (fast food, etc.)
- Absentee landlords & abandoned property
- Traffic deteriorating quality of life in residential neighborhoods on and adjacent to Hoosick.
- Pedestrian safety/ease – especially in winter
- Not enough off-street parking for residents
- Excess traffic cutting through neighborhood
- Hoosick Street not capable of handling the traffic without bypass to Vermont

WHAT CAN WE DO?

- Rezone to more commercial; emphasis on professional offices
- Control what types of development happen
- Appropriate buffers
- Pedestrian overpass
- Exploit our position for the future vis-à-vis prohibitive transportation costs
- Eliminate through trucks
- Elevated roadway

Group 3 – Concerns

- Access road behind Troy Plaza going south would be a good idea
 - Similar to access road behind Seton Health
- How to create boulevard and improve commercial at the same time – how much right-of-way is needed?
 - What is realistic for the space on Hoosick Street?
- Interfacing residential with commercial
 - Maybe high density residential near commercial
- Crime, especially car break-ins
- Jake brakes from trucks coming downhill.
- No life in front yard for those residents living on Hoosick St. because of dust, noise
- Traffic

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- Left turns on / off Hoosick difficult, problematic for residents on Hoosick
- Market value of homes on Hoosick decreasing– Single family owner occupied
- Shift from single family owner-occupied homes to commercial uses
- Commercial properties – delivery trucks and tractor trailers backing onto Hoosick
- Delivery trucks parked & running 15th, 16th, 17th
- Apparent lack of traffic violations enforcement
 - Tractor trailers parked on roadway
- Entrances/exits for business – not wide enough (what is State Law)
- Roadway itself
 - Needs improving – better materials
 - Potholes
 - Better quality materials to handle the heavy traffic flow
- Pedestrian overpass needed – difficult/unsafe to cross
- Right on red – unsafe to pedestrians
- Infrastructure issues:
 - Sewer
 - Gas-line
 - Electricity
 - Drainage
 - Signalization/timing
- Accidents (mostly cars)
- Congestion on Lake
- If commercial development occurs, it should consider uniformity in design/materials/character and have visual appeal
- Mix of uses – commercial 1st floor & residential on upper floors
- Zoning should regulate commercial
- Over bridge – reduce speed
 - Tractor trailers breaking at light are an issue
 - Lower speed limit before bridge to 45mph
 - Neighborhood impacts
- Create a right turning lane on bridge to residential area (8th Street) – may reduce congestion on bridge
- 9th & 10th greenspace – Hoosick House area
 - Possible location for an informational kiosk
 - Historic sites and directional information
 - Hillside Neighborhood Association
- Oakwood Presbyterian Church is concerned with noise and dirt near church
- Walking after a heavy snow
 - Snow removal
 - Sidewalk shoveling enforcement
- No buffer between sidewalk and street (planting strip)

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- Location for utilities
- Area for snow to be piled
- Garbage on street
- Absentee Landlords
 - Building deterioration
 - Building at Burdett and Hoosick – to be sold?
 - Condition of 15th Street and fraternity houses
- Site plan for Wendy's
 - 15th & Hoosick
 - concern with design
- Consider impacts associated with commercial development and be realistic—driveways, trucks

COMMENTS:

- Moratorium used as a tool?
 - Re: development in corridor while this project is taking place. Specific mention of Wendy's site plan
- Hoosick Street a through route
 - Want it to be a scenic route – not what we are seeing, but more of a destination
 - A bypass for trucks and through traffic
- Quality of life on Hoosick
 - Is it possible to preserve?
 - No residential character on Hoosick
 - Preserve residential in areas off Hoosick
- Pedestrian safety
 - Icy conditions
 - Concern for lower income people

HOW TO PARTICIPATE:

- Market Survey
- Advisory Committee Meetings
 - May 15, 2003 7:00 PM
 - Open to Public
- Website: www.TroyNY.org
- Media

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